

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF J.D.  
KNOX

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the unparalleled service of Springfield Fire Chief J.D. Knox. He was named by the Springfield Firefighters Union as "Firefighter of the Year." When he responded to the nomination he said, "I was shocked. I thought it was a joke." Two years ago when Chief Knox became chief he had big ideas. He was determined to do things that had never been done.

Chief Knox is currently lobbying for Fire Department controlled ambulance service. Implementing such a program would save money and increase response time according to Chief Knox. I would like to thank Chief Knox for his dedication and open-mindedness that has made the Springfield Fire Department a world class organization.

TRIBUTE TO WILLARD MUNGER

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to State Representative Willard Munger of Duluth, Minnesota, who died Sunday at the age of 88 after a valiant fight with cancer.

On Sunday, the State of Minnesota and the City of Duluth lost a great friend in Willard Munger. The environment lost a valuable ally and tireless advocate. He was a man who worked for forty years as a defender of the environment.

Willard, who was born in 1911 in a log cabin, credited his grandfather, Lyman Munger, with instilling his love of nature. Lyman Munger, a Minnesota farmer and conservationist, told Willard when he was a young boy that he could save Minnesota's wilderness from destruction if he became a politician. And so he did. He first ran for the state legislature in 1934, and although he lost, he did not give up. In 1954, he won a House seat representing West Duluth.

Willard Munger was a thoughtful, devoted, and dedicated public servant—the consummate legislator. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 42 years, longer than anyone in my home state's history. He was also the oldest sitting legislator in Minnesota's history. Some legislators get amendments passed, a few get bills passed, but only a very small number of public servants leave a legacy. Willard Munger leaves a lasting legacy of cleaner air and water—a heritage that will benefit future generations.

In Minnesota, Willard Munger's name is synonymous with environmental protection. Because of his relentless efforts, future generations will enjoy cleaner lakes and rivers and less pollution in the air. As Chairman of the House Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, he was a tireless advocate of numerous environmental causes, including energy conservation, alternative energy sources

and preserving wetlands. Perhaps most importantly, he created Minnesota's Environmental Trust Fund, which funds projects for environmental protection and outdoor recreation. His forty-year career is a monument for the protection of Minnesota's waters, woodlands and air quality, and we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Willard has been recognized in the past for his environmental efforts by having the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Trail and the animal care center at the Lake Superior Zoo named in his honor. Today, we remember Willard Munger as a true pioneer in Minnesota politics and for his enduring commitment to protecting the environment for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and unable to vote on rollcall No. 277, the approval of the Journal. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING PRIVATE CHESTER  
BEYMER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private Chester Beymer upon his approval by the Government of France for the award of the National Order of The Legion of Honor. This award is the highest honor in France during World War I and is authorized in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

Chester Beymer is 100 years old and a long time resident of Fresno. He served during World War I with the communications department of the U.S. Army Tank Corps, American Expeditionary Force. He enlisted in Los Angeles in August 1918 at age 19. Pvt. Beymer left for France that October as part of the Automatic Replacement Draft. Pvt. Beymer's duties in France involved working with two man French tanks at the U.S. Army Tank Corps Center in Langres, Haute Marne, France. He arrived shortly before the war ended and remembers being on a troop train on Armistice Day and seeing many French flags and townspeople cheering at the train stations. He came back to the United States in March 1919 on a Japanese troop ship.

Chester Beymer was born on a farm in Tonganoxie, Kansas in 1898; he was one of six children in his family. In 1904 his family moved to El Modeno, California and by 1913 was settled in the San Joaquin Valley near Lindsey. After returning from World War I Chester worked in the Fresno area with the Southern Pacific Railroad and then the Alcohol and Tobacco Unit. He later worked with the Sugar Pine Lumber Company until the early 1930's. After prohibition he joined the Alcohol

Tax Unit and later in 1941 the Income Tax Unit of the Treasury Department where he retired from in 1968. One hobby Chester enjoyed was being a ham radio operator. He still does his own taxes and considers the airplane and jet propulsion to be two of the most important inventions of the 20th century. His advice to the younger generation is to study hard while in school. Chester's extended family includes three sons, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private Chester Beymer for his service to his country. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chester many more years of continued success and happiness.

AN AMERICAN HERO

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, they say heroes come in all shapes and sizes, now we know they come from Michael, Illinois. On July 4th, 23-year-old Army Spc. 4 Anthony Gilman became the first U.S. casualty of the multinational peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. He was tragically killed when hit by an out of control pickup truck that was being driven by a Macedonian civilian.

His father said, "We're very proud of him, to me he's a hero. He wanted to serve his country. He enjoyed it." Anthony was about halfway through a 4-year enlistment during which he served in Germany, Turkey, and Greece. I cannot portray how proud I am of Anthony. He selflessly served his country and made the supreme sacrifice for the good of not only his country but the world. Our hearts and prayers are with him and his family.

THE RESTORATION OF WOMEN'S  
CITIZENSHIP ACT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Restoration of Women's Citizenship Act, legislation that corrects an antiquated law that mars our nation's history.

In 1922, Rose Bouslacchi, an American citizen, married Conrad Sabatini, a tailor by profession and an immigrant from northern Italy. When the couple married, a federal law existed which stripped women of their U.S. citizenship if they married alien men. Later that year the U.S. granted Conrad Sabatini the privilege of citizenship but in accordance with the law, refused to reinstate Rose Bouslacchi's citizenship.

During the course of her life Rose Bouslacchi reared a family of five daughters, each a college graduate and each a contributor to the well being of our nation. Four became teachers and one became a nurse. Rose Bouslacchi was an active member of her church and worked with her husband in the running of their business. Her life embodied the values of family and faith, representing the best of America. But, Rose Bouslacchi could never be called an American again.